



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 1, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Gary Abud, 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

- Continued working with K-12 classrooms in an instructional coaching setting on technology integration and science education pedagogy.
- Attended the Research Process & Asking Good Research Questions Brown Bag presentation with Michigan Department of Education data fellows.
- Worked with novice and career teachers at our New Teacher Small Group meeting to discuss retention and "rewarding" of teachers.
- Assisted the Grosse Pointe Foundation For Public Education with its annual fundraiser gala by setting up a classroom simulation of iPads + Apple TV.
- Supported elementary teachers with formative assessment strategies in the classroom at Monteith Elementary.
- Reviewed technology grant proposals for the Grosse Pointe Foundation For Public Education, and worked with Foundation and district officials to award technology grants in schools.
- Co-taught a project-based learning lesson on science with a 3rd grade class at Ferry Elementary.
- Assisted middle school teachers in getting their students blogging about their learning.
- Worked with teachers at Maire Elementary on a variety of technology integration activities for their iPad grant.
- Spoke to the Galileo Teacher Academy Alumni Board about teacher leadership in Michigan.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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- Spoke to the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals at the 1:1 Summit about the challenge and opportunity of technology in education.
- Ran the spring meeting of the Detroit Metro Area Physics Teachers Association at Troy High School where 30 teachers from Southeast Michigan gathered to share and learn best practices together.
- Worked with teachers at Richard Elementary on a variety of technology integration activities for their iPad grant.
- Visited DeWitt High School to see the DeWitt Creativity Group students in action and view their STEM lab, where students are building 3D printers and conducting other STEM research projects.
- Met with the Superintendent of Utica Community Schools about digital learning to learn about some of the initiatives going on in the district, such as blended learning at the lower elementary level.
- Led a workshop for middle school counselors in Grosse Pointe on using Google Drive to connect, communicate, and collaborate on their work with students.
- Ran a workshop for Utica Community Schools secondary science teachers about student-centered science instruction and experimental design.
- Attended the Governor's Education Summit in East Lansing, where I met with Governor Snyder to discuss STEM education and innovative learning for students.
- Spoke to the Governor's Education Summit about the great things happening in Michigan schools around the state that exemplify the modern classroom.
- Traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 2014 National Teacher of the Year and 2014 State Teachers of the Year Recognition Week.
- Participated in the Smithsonian Teacher Ambassadors Program to learn about visual literacy and discussion facilitation at the National Portrait Gallery.
- Attended a reception with the Second Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, at the Vice President's Residence celebrating the contributions of U.S. teachers.
- Toured the National Monuments with the People to People Ambassadors Program.
- Visited SMART Technologies headquarters for a training on its latest products and software, including a new collaborative web-based application called SMART Amp.
- Attended a research study release event with the Network of National State Teachers of the Year on findings of the Teacher Leadership Career Continuum Effective Practices study.

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- Visited the U.S. Department of Education and worked with the Teacher Ambassador Fellows Program on developing a teacher leadership initiative called Teach to Lead.
- Attended the National Teacher of the Year gala at the U.S. Institute of Peace where the 2014 National Teacher of the Year was announced and presented to the 2014 Maryland Teacher of the Year, Sean McComb.
- Met with Representative Candice Miller at the Capitol about early childhood education and pathways to postsecondary careers and education for Michigan students.
- Visited the White House for a ceremony recognizing the 2014 State Teachers of the Year and formally announcing the 2014 National Teacher of the Year.
- Submitted a research abstract to the Galileo Teacher Academy Spring Learning Fair on the comparison of grading methods and student achievement in high school physics.
- Attended the Alpha Iota Conference on Mackinac Island and spoke to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society as well as led a workshop on Modeling Instruction in Science.
- Collaborated with instructional technology leaders in Wayne County at the Instructional Technology Leadership Committee meeting at Wayne RESA.
- Worked with district administrators in Grosse Pointe to design a training on Google Apps For Education for principals.
- Worked with Reading Specialists in Grosse Pointe to use iPads to enhance differentiation for student literacy support.
- Gave a presentation on STEM education to middle school students at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School in Grosse Pointe.
- Led a staff development presentation on iPads in education for the teachers at Grosse Pointe Academy.
- Participated in Elementary Writing Day at Poupard Elementary, where students presented their writing projects to other students and adults.
- Led a staff development presentation for high school teachers at Grosse Pointe North on using Apple TV in the classroom.
- Engaged teachers from around the country in conversations about teaching, leading, and learning through the Teacher Leadership Blogging Challenge.